



Canal &
River Trust

PRESS RELEASE

Issued: 16 October 2017

CANAL CHARITY GOES QUACKERS WITH FIRST INTERNATIONAL DUCK RACE - OVER CHIRK AQUEDUCT

The Canal & River Trust charity is to host its first international, cross-border duck race over Chirk Aqueduct on Sunday 22 October.

The stunning 70 feet high aqueduct, built by Thomas Telford more than 200 years ago, marks the boundary between England and Wales and is part of the Trust's impressive Llangollen Canal 11 mile World Heritage Site.

Competitors do not need to register in advance but simply arrive at Chirk Basin, near Wrexham, on the day of the race from 10.30am and register their name against a duck number.

The event, jointly organised by Wrexham County Council, is free but competitors will be invited to make a donation to the Canal & River Trust, which cares for 2,000 miles of the nation's canals, and Nightingale House Hospice, which provided the ducks.

Trust mascot Vinnie the Vole will wave off the duck race at 11.15am from the Welsh side of the aqueduct and join spectators in cheering on the ducks as they float 710 feet over the aqueduct to England, with the help of a few kayakers.

Ani Sutton, Canal & River Trust development manager, said: "This will be a fabulous event to showcase Chirk Aqueduct and the wonderful Llangollen Canal World Heritage Site.

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Patron: H.R.H. The Prince of Wales. Canal & River Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales with company number 7807276 and registered charity number 1146792, registered office address: First Floor North, Station House, 500 Elder Gate, Milton Keynes MK9 1BB

“Sometimes overshadowed by its more headline-grabbing neighbour, the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, Chirk is a stunning structure in its own right. It deserves to have a spotlight shone on it and what better way to get everyone out having some fun than to host a duck race.”

Prizes for the winners include a family ticket for the Llangollen horse-drawn boat trip and gift vouchers for the Anderton Boat Lift and local Café Wylfa. Parking at Chirk Basin is limited so visitors are asked to walk or cycle to the site and use the event as an opportunity to explore the wider World Heritage Site.

- Join the Canal & River Trust for another free event the following weekend at Trevor Basin Visitor Centre. A Horrible Histories Halloween Special with Ruth Moore-Williams promises fun spooky songs and stories from 11am – 3pm on Sunday 29 October.

For more information about both events or how to volunteer or donate to the Canal & River Trust, check out www.canalrivertrust.org.uk or call the customer services team on 0303 040 4040.

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For further media requests please contact: Lynn Pegler on 07783 686246
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Notes to editors:

The Canal & River Trust is the guardian of 2,000 miles of historic waterways across England and Wales, caring for the nation’s third largest collection of listed structures, as well as museums, archives, and hundreds of important wildlife sites.

We believe that *living waterways transform places and enrich lives* and our role is to make sure there is always a place on your doorstep where you can escape the pressures of everyday life, stretch your legs and simply feel closer to nature.

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